

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, by airing only an anti-Kerry documentary, Sinclair is showing bias and uses its considerable broadcast capabilities in a partisan manner. Its one thing if there were pro-kerry or anti-Bush documentaries to balance out the one they showed. In the absence of any balance, the media company gets too much power to influence and affect public opinion.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.